

Taylor-Ward House
Craven County
228 Craven Street
New Bern, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-172 HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Department of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

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GENERAL STATEMENT: The structure is a typical town house of the late 18th century. Three and one half stories with full basement. The building is in excellent condition.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR

Orientation: The house faces west with the front wall on the sidewalk property line.

Foundation & Wall Construction: Brick laid in flemish bond. A moulded brick water table occurs at the first floor line. 4 courses equal 11".

Exterior Openings - Doors: The entrance door is six-panel with a rectangular transom. It is flanked by fluted pilasters with a pediment above.

Windows: All windows are double hung, 6/6 with stone sills. First and second floor windows have inside shutters.

Roof: Pitched with low parapet gables and boxed cornice with dentils. The roof is covered with slate.

Chimneys: One center brick chimney.

INTERIOR

Stairways: Main stairway is open string with scroll step ends, square balusters and moulded handrail. The stairway to the basement is enclosed.

Floor: Pine boards approximately 4" wide.

Wall & Ceiling Finish: Plaster with simple moulded plaster cornice. Some rooms have been papered.

Doors and Doorways: All of the interior doors are six-panel. The doorways in the second floor front room originally the drawing room have fluted pilasters supporting a frieze and cornice.

Trim: The mantels are said to be original. The fireplace in the first floor front room, originally the office was flanked by a pair of recessed bookcases or cupboards, one of which has been converted into an arched passage to the dining room. Between the entry hall and the stairhall there is an elliptical arch with keystone supported by fluted pilasters.

Hardware: Most of the hardware, is reportedly original.

OTHER

Enclosures: Brick wall around rear garden. Wrought iron gate with brick pillars on the street at the right side of the house.

HISTORICAL DATA

Date of Erection: Circa-1792

Architect: Thought to have been designed by John Hawks.

Original & Subsequent Owners: The house was built for Isaac Taylor and remained in the possession of the Nixon family until 1898 when it was sold to Robert Nixon. The house was purchased in 1940 by Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Ward, the present owners, from the decedents of Robert Nixon. It is now occupied by the owners.

Alterations and Additions: The house was originally constructed with the first floor front room as an office with its entrance where the left window now exist. The office had no means of access to the rest of the house. The second floor front room was at that time the drawing room. In 1846 the office entrance was closed, a doorway was cut into the entrance hall and the right bookcase was replaced with an archway into the dining room.

Important Old Views: The owner has a steel engraving Circa 1864, which shows the house. There is also in the New Bern Library a photograph of the house which is dated 1888.

Reference: "A Guide to Early American Homes, South", by Dorothy and Richard Pratt, published 1956 by McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.

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